

JOHN P. RUTTER AND OTHERS.

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JANUARY 26, 1855.—Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. FAULKNER, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of John P. Rutter and other citizens of Marion county, Missouri, asking for an appropriation to aid in establishing certain roads in Nebraska, Washington, and Oregon Territories, respectfully submit the following report of the Secretary of War with reference thereto, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the memorial.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,

*Washington, January 16, 1855.*

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of a petition, enclosed in your letter of the 7th ultimb, from citizens of Missouri, desiring that the Indian title to the lands on the Missouri river be extinguished, for a distance of twenty-five or thirty miles on either side, from the northern limit of the late purchases to the head of navigation, and thence for a greater width through the Rocky mountains, and that a road be constructed through the lands so acquired, from the Missouri to the Columbia or Puget's sound, thus obtaining an emigrant route, by river and road, from the Mississippi to the Pacific, through a country secure from Indian depredations and ultimately filled with settlements.

There can be no question of the value of the results proposed; but, from the information the department has of the nature of the country, the adoption of the measures suggested would not be followed by the effects anticipated. The river route would be too circuitous, and the road would present too many difficulties to form an advantageous line for emigrants to the Pacific Territories, while the lands along it are not of such character or so situated as, probably, to attract settlers to any extent for many years to come.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JEFFN. DAVIS,

*Secretary of War.*

Hon. CH. J. FAULKNER,

*Of the Committee on Military Affairs, Ho. of Reps.*